

who should be leaders in their profession. One thinks of the ready acceptance of one nurse to one baby being the correct staffing for an infants' ward. And one wonders, wryly, why other nurses should be expected to care for thrice as many geriatric patients, whose needs are as great, whose demands more vocal, and who weigh approximately fourteen times as much.

The problem of caring for an ageing population is a complex one. It often calls for what might seem to the outsider to be great sacrifice within the family (only that "love knoweth no measure, but is fervent beyond all measure") and for much generosity from the whole community. Few, however, will escape a stay in hospital in their later years. Many will die in hospital. It depends very much on the action taken as a result of this report whether that experience is foreseen with tranquillity or with despair. M. J. L. F.

SOME ASPECTS OF INTERNAL IRRADIATION. Edited by T. F. Dougherty, W. S. S. Jec, C. W. Mays, and B. J. Stover. (Pp. xviii + 529; illustrated. 100s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1963.

THIS well-bound volume is comprised of thirty-three edited papers from a symposium held at Heber, Utah, in May, 1961.

Most of these papers deal with the effects of internally deposited, bone-seeking, radio-nuclides in various mammals. Detailed and comprehensive information is given on the results of a large-scale experiment, using adult beagles, carried out in the University of Utah, and almost half the papers in this volume are based on the various physical and biological effects of radium, plutonium, mesothorium, radiothorium and strontium 90 on these animals.

An additional attraction is the fact that an account is given of the discussion following the presentation of each paper. In these, the experts in many cases pin-point the remaining problems and outline the direction in which further research will be required.

A section is devoted to papers on the physical problems of distribution and dosimetry of alpha and beta emitters in the body, and contains contributions from such distinguished British medical physicists as Professors Lamerton and Spiers.

Although the need for longer term animal studies is recognised, this book probably comprises the most comprehensive collection to date of data on the effects of internally deposited radio-nuclides. Even if the difficulties in extrapolating most of the results obtained in their application to man are all too apparent, the available information on humans who have ingested radium and mesothorium (early luminous dial painters and patients injected with thorotrast) correlated with the results of these animal studies using the same and other radioisotopes, may help to define more precisely the hazard to man involved in the use and misuse of these substances.

A book of this nature, presenting such a mass of new data, should grow in importance as the use, and associated hazards, of these bone-seeking radio-nuclides becomes more widespread. A. R. L.

THE PATHOGENESIS OF ESSENTIAL HYPERTENSION: PROCEEDINGS OF THE PRAGUE SYMPOSIUM. Edited by J. H. Cort. (Pp. 477. 100s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1962.

THIS is a report of the symposium held under joint W.H.O. and Czechoslovak Cardiological Society auspices in Prague in 1960. The entire production is in English and the editors must have had many difficulties.

The symposium covers papers on the definition and natural history of hypertension, epidemiological studies, the nervous system and essential hypertension, the hæmo-dynamics of essential hypertension, vessel wall factors and metabolic factors. In spite of this wide coverage there is still room for debate of what constitutes hypertension, and the casual reading evidently gives little information. The contributors have produced an interesting series of papers, but perhaps even more interesting is the diversity of their opinions upon what is, or is not, a common disease process. J. H. B.